



# HYDE COUNTY

## NORTH CAROLINA

Since 1712

April 2, 2012

**RE: NO FERRY TAX!**

Dear Hyde Citizen,

Hyde County is one of several coastal counties that rely heavily on a special “roadway” made possible by the N.C. Ferry Division. Legislation has required the N.C. Ferry Division to increase revenue by \$5 million this year, which could mean a “tax” on riding the ferry.

Under the proposed rules, it will cost a family \$104 for a round-trip ticket on the Swan Quarter ferry. In Pamlico County, commuters are facing a tax of \$100 per week just to get to work. The tax also applies to folks who don’t ride the ferry. The County of Hyde would pay an extra \$60,000 in travel costs for government business, thus making taxpayers foot the Ferry Tax bill.

Hyde County has partnered with neighboring Beaufort and Pamlico counties, as well as lobbyists from McClees Consulting to assist in speaking out against this tax. Enclosed, you’ll find guidelines on how you can help oppose the “Ferry Tax.”

## **N.C. Legislature needs to fix this!**

McClees Consulting has pointed out several aspects of the destructive funding approach of NCDOT, calling their expenditures “irresponsible” and unfair for citizens to have to pay for. The Legislature can and should solve this crisis. Governor Perdue helped us by placing a moratorium on the collection of new ferry taxes. BUT THIS IS NOT A PERMANENT SOLUTION. The NC General Assembly must fix this problem or we’ll be back in the same boat next year – facing very steep increases in our coastal mode of travel.

## **Your voice is important!**

Citizens are encouraged to reach out to elected officials by making individual contacts with each legislator in their own words. A few sentences in a letter or a short phone call will do. Just be sure to include where you live and convey the common message of **"No Ferry Tax."**

# Contact your officials today!

Listed are names of elected officials that the McClees specifically named as important contacts in the fight against the ferry tax.

- **Senator Bill Rabon** co-chair of both the Joint Legislative on Transportation and Appropriations committees: [bill.rabon@ncleg.net](mailto:bill.rabon@ncleg.net)
- **NC Speaker of the House Thom Tillis**, (919) 733-3451; [thom.tillis@ncleg.net](mailto:thom.tillis@ncleg.net), 16 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601
- **NC Senate President Pro Tem Sen Phil Berger**, (919) 733-5708; [phil.berger@ncleg.net](mailto:phil.berger@ncleg.net), 16 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601
- **Rep. Timothy Spear**: (252) 796-7048 or (252) 797-4481; [Tim.spear@ncleg.net](mailto:Tim.spear@ncleg.net); 300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 402, Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
- **Sen. Stan White**: (919) 715-8293; [Stan.white@ncleg.net](mailto:Stan.white@ncleg.net); 16 W. Jones Street, Room 1121 Raleigh, NC 27601-2808
- **Congressman Walter B. Jones**: (202) 225-3415, 2333 Rayburn Hob Washington, DC 20515; to send an email, log on to Jones' official website, [www.jones.house.gov](http://www.jones.house.gov)
- **Sen Kay Hagan**: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-6342 521; email Jennifer Johnson at [Jennifer.Johnson@hagan.senate.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Johnson@hagan.senate.gov).
- **Sen Richard Burr**: (202) 224-3154, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. To send an email, log on to Burr's official website [www.burr.senate.gov](http://www.burr.senate.gov)

# Write the newspapers!

Help get the Ferry Tax fight noticed by writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Send your comments to the following addresses:

- *The Coastland Times*, Attention: Susan Simpson, editor; P.O. Box 400, Manteo, NC 27954
- *The Washington Daily News*: call (252) 946-2144, or log on to [www.wdnweb.com/services/letters-to-editor/](http://www.wdnweb.com/services/letters-to-editor/)
- *The Raleigh News and Observer*: The People's Forum, P.O. Box 191, Raleigh, NC 27602; fax to (919) 829-4872 or call (919) 829-4517 with questions.
- *The Beaufort-Hyde News*, attention: Letters to the Editor, [jjenkins@ncweeklies.com](mailto:jjenkins@ncweeklies.com); P.O. Box 99, Belhaven, NC 27810
- *The Virginian Pilot*: Attention: Letters to the Editor, [letters@pilotonline.com](mailto:letters@pilotonline.com); P.O. Box 449; Norfolk, VA 23501-0449

**For more information, please contact Megan S. Shaw, Hyde County Public Information Officer at (252) 926-4373.**

**You can also contact lobbyists Joe or Henri McClees on their cell phones at (252) 671-1585, or 671-1559.**

## Thanks for your support!

